

# Middlesex County Cancer Capacity and Needs Assessment Report Summary

## Fact Sheet

*The Office of Cancer Control and Prevention of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, in conjunction with a mandate from the Governor's Task Force on Cancer Prevention, Early Detection and Treatment in New Jersey and in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, has developed comprehensive cancer capacity and needs assessment reports for each county in the state. These reports are a result of initial implementation steps of the New Jersey Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (NJ-CCCP). The purpose of the reports is to identify the major cancer issues affecting each county and the county's available resources for cancer prevention, screening, and treatment, as well as to offer recommendations for improvement. Each report was written by county evaluators from a county-level point of view.*

### County Demographic Profile

- **2000 Population:** 750,162
- **Median Age:** 35.7
- **Racial Composition:**
  - 68% White
  - 14% Asian
  - 9% Black
- **Ethnic Composition:**
  - 14 % Hispanic
- **Median Household Income:** \$61,446
- **% of Residents  $\geq$  25 years of age without high school diploma:** 16%
- **% of Residents living below the poverty level:** 6.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Census 2000

### Overall Cancer Burden

From 1996-2000, an average of 619.1 men and 442.4 women per 100,000 were diagnosed with cancer each year in Middlesex County. This is comparable to the New Jersey rate of 628.7 for men and 453.7 for women. The average annual cancer death rate was 260.6 for men, and 175.6 for women in Middlesex County, compared to the state rate of 261.1 for men and 181.6 for women. As in the state, the types of cancers which affect the most people in Middlesex County are breast, colorectal, lung, and prostate.

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.

### Overarching Issues

- **County Infrastructure:** An ongoing county cancer coalition exists; however, there is no current county-level comprehensive cancer plan.
- **Prevention and Education:** Cancer prevention and education resources are widely available; however, access issues exist for minority and low-income populations.
- **Transportation:** Several agencies provide no-cost or low-cost transportation assistance; however, age and service area restrictions create barriers to receiving cancer services.
- **Palliation/Quality of Life/ Survivorship:** Support services are available, however, awareness and education is needed for health professionals and the general public on palliative care.
- **Providers and Treatment:** With 5 hospitals, 11 radiology and diagnostic facilities, home health agencies and 5 hospices providing treatment, cancer care is considered to be excellent in Middlesex County.
- **Childhood Cancer:** Two children's hospitals within the county offer pediatric hematology and oncology services and treatment.

# Middlesex County & New Jersey

## 1996-2000 Average Annual Age-Adjusted Incidence & Mortality Rates by Site

All Cancers	Incidence Rate <sup>1</sup>		Mortality Rate <sup>2</sup>	
	Middlesex County	NJ	Middlesex County	NJ
Male	619.1	628.7	260.6	261.1
Female	442.4	453.7	175.6	181.6
NJ-CCCP Priority Cancer by Gender				
Breast, female	137.1	138.5	30.1	31.3
Cervical, female	9.9	10.9	2.7	3.1
Colorectal, male	84.8	79.0	<b>33.1</b>	29.5
Colorectal, female	49.9	54.4	18.5	20.1
Lung, male	91.0	92.5	73.0	74.8
Lung, female	56.5	55.4	43.0	41.6
Melanoma, male	17.6	20.1	3.8	4.4
Melanoma, female	10.8	11.9	1.8	1.9
Oral/Oropharyngeal, male	14.2	15.7	3.5	4.2
Oral/Oropharyngeal, female	5.9	6.4	1.6	1.6
Prostate, male	182.3	194.3	33.1	32.9

Sources: <sup>1</sup> New Jersey State Cancer Registry, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, August 2003

<sup>2</sup> National Cancer Institute and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Cancer Profiles (Accessed at <http://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/>)

Note: Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. Census population standards.  
A rate at least 10% higher than the corresponding state rate is shown in ***bold italics***.

### County Recommendations

- Continue to improve outreach to and access for low-income individuals, minority populations, and other medically underserved residents.
- Promote early detection by expanding screening programs, especially for low-income, minority, and the over 65 population.
- Promote cancer prevention by expanding awareness and prevention programs and increasing participation in cancer prevention activities to groups within the community such as schools, employers, and faith-based organizations.

### For More Information

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To access the full Report Summary, visit the website:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/health/ccp>